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ABSTRACT

RESOLVING CARNIVORE-HUMAN CONFLICTS.

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Carnivores are important components of forest ecosystems. There have been many efforts to re-establish populations or better manage existing populations. Conflicts can occur when human life or property is threatened or damaged (e.g., persons, pets, livestock), important game populations are impacted (e.g., big game, upland game, waterfowl), or threatened or endangered species are affected (e.g., Columbia white-tailed deer, snowy plover, CA least tern, sandhill and whooping cranes, kit foxes, native Hawaiian birds). Problems often occur when carnivore densities are high and they have largely lost their fear of humans and human habitations. This has resulted in occasional control of carnivores, including wolves, coyotes, foxes, mountain lions, bears, raccoons and skunks. Before action is initiated, the problem species must be identified; the location extent, and timing of the problem understood; and the various control options considered. Management programs should be tailored to the local situation and the individuals causing the damage. Conflict resolution is often hampered by the secretive and elusive nature of carnivores and the remote rugged forestlands that they can inhabit. A variety of methods, both lethal and nonlethal, are available for aiding in conflict resolutions. Multiple methods and the principles of integrated pest management should be incorporated into the management programs. Additional or improved methods that are effective, practical, legal, and socially acceptable, are needed.